

## June 2015

This month you can join two top Polish pairs on BBO during a practice match

### Bidding

No one vulnerable

West	W	N	E	S
♠ 85				1C(1)
♥ Q4	1D(2)	pass(3)	1H(4)	1S(5)
♦ K10973	pass(6)	2S(7)	pass	2NT(8)
♣ J642	pass	3NT(9)	passed out	

The bidding needs some explanation as they are naturally playing the Polish Club system for which I am not really qualified to comment on, but I'll do my best

- (1) I have been dealt 13 cards with a point range of 9 to 30 points. I can have just about any distribution except those where I would have opened something else
- (2) I also have 13 cards and at least 5 Diamonds
- (3) I'm still counting how many cards I've been dealt
- (4) I also seem to have 13 cards and at least 5 Hearts
- (5) I have at least 5 Spades, but please note I didn't open 1S
- (6) Despite my great fit for partner's suit I must reluctantly pass
- (7) I also have 13 cards
- (8) Real men never play in 2NT so in Poland this is a forcing bid
- (9) I am a real man and I live in Poland

Well, so much for the bidding. Declarer seems unperturbed by you and your partner's efforts so you decide to lead the ♣2

Dummy goes down with the following hand

### North

♠ A73  
♥ 1054  
♦ 863  
♣ 10853

### West

♠ 85  
♥ Q4  
♦ K10973  
♣ J642

Declarer plays low from Dummy, your partner inserts the Queen and this loses to the Ace. Declarer now plays the ♠Q followed by a Spade to the Ace, your partner following with first the 10 then the 6. Declarer plays a small Heart from Dummy to his Jack which you win.

Plan your defence.

### Initial Analysis

A Heart return now could be wrong if Declarer started with A9x. A Diamond won't work out well if Declarer holds AQ and a Club will cost if Declarer started with AKx. What clues do we have so far? All we know is that partner petered when following in Spades. What does that mean in your partnership; that he started with an even number of Spades if you use standard count, or perhaps he started with an odd number if you play the more trendy upside down count? I'm going to explain how I think you should be using this peter in a minute, but in the meantime back to the problem. Clearly declarer didn't start with AKx in clubs because with that holding he would have cashed his two top clubs and played a small one towards Dummy to establish the 10 before burning his only entry to the table. If your partner holds the ♣K what are declarer's remaining high cards? He most certainly holds 10 points in the black suits so he will have at least 10 points in the red suits. If your partner wins the next trick it is imperative that he switches to a Diamond and doesn't make the lazy play of another Club else you will be end played if Declarer started with

♠ KQJxx  
♥ AJx  
♦ AQx  
♣ Ax

as he will simply discard a small Diamond on the third Club and make his ninth trick in whichever suit you care to return. Was there a legitimate way partner could tell you he held the ♣K? The answer is a resounding yes. It's a well known but little practiced convention called a Smith Peter, named after an Englishman, Mr Smith who first published this convention back in 1963.

This is how it works. When declarer starts running his suit (usually at trick 2) if you like your partner's lead and want him to continue in that suit should he regain the lead you peter in declarer's suit. There is a simple extension to this for the defender on lead. If on seeing Dummy he doesn't want the suit led returned because he sees a more promising line of defence elsewhere he will also peter when following declarer's suit to alert you to this possibility.

Here is the full deal

	N	
	♠ A73	
	♥ 1054	
	♦ 863	
	♣ 10853	
W		E
♠ 85		♠ 1096
♥ Q4		♥ K8762
♦ K10975		♦ J4
♣ J642		♣ KQ7
	S	
	♣ KQJ42	
	♥ AJ9	
	♦ AQ2	
	♣ A9	

So at the table West peters in Spades telling his partner to find a better return than Clubs should he get in (here's a clue – look at my bidding!), and East peters in Spades telling his partner that he holds the ♣K. A simple enough defence and one you should find at the table anyway even if you're not using Smith peters, but how much easier to defend if you have a street map with you!

### Conclusion

The Smith Peter is a simple convention to learn and much more useful to the defence than giving count in a suit where you are certain to discover the distribution anyway. At the end of trick 1 East should be asking himself how he can tell his partner that he holds the ♣K, a problem Mr Smith solved for us over 50 years ago.